COUNTRY

Yugoslavia

Reserve Military Training; Weapons and Equipment

NO. OF PAGES 2

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SUBJECT

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Reserve military training conducted during the summer months all over Yugoslavia was completed at St. Vid on 21 July. Courses were conducted by Russian-trained Yugoslav officers, but no Soviet officers were present. The emphasis was on combat training but instruction frequently was theoretical. Soldiers, for example, were instructed in the theoretical use of the Soviet towny gun, 19hh model, the Katyusha, and new flame-throwers but never saw or handled the weapons. They had the Soviet combat manual of 1946 read to them. Among other things, they were told the Soviet Union would soon provide Yugoslavia with KV 13 seventy-ton tanks.

- Theoretical training in German land mines was given. Chemical warfare instruction was described as conducted with "primitive" type masks and other protective clothing. Vague reference was made to a new secret Sovist weapon, an anti-chemical six barrel mortar used to dispel poison gas.

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- On 19 June 1948 forty Skoda trucks and eleven tanks (type unspecified) left St. Vid near Ljubljana in the direction of Postojna.
- b. Car-sheds on the Sava River at St. Vid house approximately 300 trucks and numerous passenger cars, mostly Buicks, allegedly kept in readiness for sudden evacuation.
- c. Nearby on the river bank at St. Vid were two 76 mm. AA guns. On 9 June these were replaced by four batteries of smaller calibre, guarded twentyfour hours a day.

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- a. All Yugoslav factories were ordered to be camouflaged by 1 July 1948. To date other than in essential plants, the order has not been carried out because of lack of paint.
- b. New AA and fire-combat units, each consisting of from nine to twelve men, have been instituted in all essential plants.

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- a. Glider training centers have been opened in Ruma (Srem Province) and in Kragujevac, Serbia. Both centers are operating at full speed.
- b. One site of two months reserve training, which commenced in late June, is the region of Crni Vrh, along the Slovene-Austrian border.

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- a. An acute shortage of gasoline obtains throughout Croatia, strict rationing and control measures have been introduced.
- b. All army guards and sentinels in Zagreb have been replaced by militia men. UDB Headquarters and the main prison on the Savska highway are now guarded by the militia. According to informants, troops are needed for action in the forests of Bosnia and to maintain internal order.
- c. The working schedule for laborers in Croatia has been increased to ten hours daily. In addition they are required to work three hours on Sunday.
- d. An intensive scrap-iron campaign has been conducted throughout Croatia during the month of June, 1948.